

L A T E

Date: 01/27/2012

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2273 Relating to Concussions

Purpose of Bill: Requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports HB 2273 and a continued partnership with the Hawaii High School Athletic Association in the development of educational programs and guidelines regarding concussion awareness for public and private schools. In implementing its Concussion Management Program (CMP), the Department has acknowledged the need for awareness education for students, parents, school staff, sports officials and schools administrators regarding the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the procedures that need to be followed. The Department's CMP addresses the concussion assessments and education of athletic trainers, and coaches to ensure student athletes return to play safely.

A partnership with the University of Hawaii's Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science Department and the Department of Health (DOH) Neurotrauma Division assists the Department in providing our student athletes with baseline testing and follow-up testing for cognitive and postural stability. Through this partnership the Department has been able to identify concussed student athletes and returned them to participation safely, with a standardized return-to-activity plan. The next steps for this partnership is to develop a comprehensive educational program about the signs, symptoms and early intervention, particularly

for students athletes and parents, but also for sports officials, school staff, and school administrators. Through other ongoing partnerships with the DOH, Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) and Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association (HATA) we will be able to develop an educational program to fit all of our schools, from small private schools to large public schools. This type of partnership has already allowed us to provide concussion coaches clinics (6) on all islands over the last nine months.

This legislation will allow the Department to focus its efforts on education/awareness of concussions for all key role groups. The Department supports the partnership with HHSAA and community agencies to ensure the safety and well-being for all of Hawaii's student athletes.



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

L A T E

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**STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
JANUARY 27, 2012, 9:00 am
STATE CAPITOL, CONF. RM. 329**

**Testimony in support of
HB 2273, Relating to Concussions**

CHAIR RYAN YAMANE, VICE CHAIR DEE MORIKAWA, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIA-HI) strongly supports HB 2273, which requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools.

My name is Lyna Burian, and my son sustained a brain injury nineteen years ago, when he was struck by a tow truck while crossing the street. Since then, I have been actively involved with the BIA-HI, where I have met a lot of people with mild and traumatic brain injuries. A concussion is considered a mild brain injury.

Brain injury changes not only the life of the individual completely, but the lives of his or her family members as well. Depending on what part of the brain and how severe the person gets injured, he or she may suffer physical, cognitive or behavioral problems. And what makes it worse is when a person gets another concussion, while he or she is still recovering from the first concussion.

The best way to prevent brain injury is through awareness. The BIA-HI has been vigorously promoting awareness through their educational programs and conferences.

I urge you to pass HB 2273. It will definitely help reduce the number of brain injuries related to sports.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyna O. Burian

Member, BIA-HI Legislative Committee
Member, BIA-HI Board of Directors

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 4:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2273 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

L A T E

Testimony for HLT 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2273

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments: